

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:401

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000

LAND TO SCS/STS

K.H. MUNIYAPPA;RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee recommended formulation and implementation of a scheme for restoration of alienated land/Agricultural land to the SCs/STs during 1992;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the amount demanded by the Ministry for procurement and distribution of agricultural land for SCs/STs during the Eighth and Ninth Plan period separately;

(d) the quantity of land held by the SCs/STs in comparison to others and the percentage thereof as compared to the total agricultural land of the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide land/Agricultural land to landless SCs/STs during the Ninth Plan for bringing them above the poverty line?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO . 401 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 22.8.2000.

1. The Standing Committee for Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar's Birth Centenary Celebration had, inter alia, recommended 'Restoration of alienated lands of SCs and STs'.

2. 'Land' is a State subject and many States have enacted legislations for prevention of alienation and for restoration of alienated lands to SCs/STs. The Central Government is monitoring various land reforms programmes including alienation and restoration of tribal lands. There is no Centrally funded Programme for this purpose.

3. As per the data available from the Agricultural Census, 1990-91, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others were reported to have respectively held 325.43 lakh acres (13.17 million hectares), 442.56 lakh acres (17.91 million hectares) and 3321.52 lakh acres (134.42 million hectares) of operated area. It is estimated that out of these operated areas, 12.84 million hectares was owned by Scheduled Castes and 17.37 million hectares was owned by Scheduled Tribes. The share of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others in the total operated area was 8.0 per cent, 10.8 per cent and 81.2 per cent respectively during 1990-91. As per the Population Census, 1991, the total population of Scheduled Castes was 16.48 per cent and the population of Scheduled Tribes was 8.08 per cent of the total population of the country (excluding Jammu & Kashmir). The data for past Agricultural Censuses indicates that the share of Scheduled Caste farmers in the total operated area increased from 7.0 per cent during 1980-81 to 8.0 per cent in 1990-91 and that of Scheduled Tribe farmers from 10.2 per cent to 10.8 per cent during the same period.

4. The Central Government issued Guidelines (based on the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held in July, 1972) which provided for preferential allotment of ceiling surplus land to SCs/STs. The land acquired by the State Governments through imposition of ceiling on agricultural holdings is distributed to the rural poor, including SCs and STs. Government Wastelands and Bhoodan lands are also distributed to the rural poor, including SCs/STs. Since inception of the programme till December, 1999, an area of about 52.87 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land, and about 147.47 lakh acres of Government Wastelands and about 21.75 lakh acres of Bhoodan land have been distributed to the rural poor, including SCs and STs. Nearly 50 per cent of the ceiling surplus land distributed to the rural poor has been allotted to SCs and STs in the proportion of 36 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.